

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] 1. An optical disc cassette for holding a plurality of optical discs, comprising:

a housing having an inner surface, an opening and a plurality of slide-track sets, wherein the slide-track sets are disposed on the inner surface and the slide-track sets extend in a direction towards the opening;
a plurality of optical disc carriers disposed inside the housing, wherein each optical disc carrier is free to slide along the slide-track sets and an edge of each optical disc carrier has an indentation thereon; and
a cushioning pad disposed on the inner surface, wherein at least one of the optical discs within the respective optical disc carrier leans against the cushioning pad through the indentation.

[Claim 2] 2. The optical disc cassette of claim 1, wherein the inner surface has an area facing the opening and the cushioning pad is disposed on the area facing the opening.

[Claim 3] 3. The optical disc cassette of claim 2, wherein the inner surface has a protruding portion and the cushioning pad is disposed on the protruding portion.

[Claim 4] 4. The optical disc cassette of claim 2, wherein the inner surface has a leaf spring and the cushioning pad is disposed on the leaf spring.

[Claim 5] 5. The optical disc cassette of claim 1, wherein the cushioning pad is fabricated from a shock-absorbing material.

[Claim 6] 6. The optical disc cassette of claim 5, wherein the buffer material comprises sponge or rubber.

[Claim 7] 7. The optical disc cassette of claim 1, wherein the cassette further comprises an engaging element disposed on the inner surface and each optical disc carrier has an engaging portion for latching with the engaging element.

[Claim 8] 8. The optical disc cassette of claim 7, wherein the latching element comprises a spring plate.

[Claim 9] 9. An optical disc drive, comprising:

an optical disc cassette for holding a plurality of optical discs, wherein the optical disc cassette further comprising:
a housing having an inner surface, an opening and a plurality of slide-track sets, wherein the slide-track sets are disposed on the inner surface and the slide-track sets extend in a direction towards the opening;
a plurality of optical disc carriers disposed inside the housing, wherein each optical disc carrier is free to slide along the slide-track sets and an edge of each optical disc carrier has an indentation thereon; and
a cushioning pad disposed on the inner surface, wherein at least one of the optical discs disposed within the respective optical disc carrier leans against the cushioning pad through the indentation;
an optical disc data processing module for reading data from the optical discs;
and
a disc selecting mechanism for performing disc selection and the disc loading operation between the optical disc cassette and the optical disc data processing module.

[Claim 10] 10. The optical disc drive of claim 9, wherein the inner surface has an area facing the opening and the cushioning pad is disposed on the area facing the opening.

[Claim 11] 11. The optical disc drive of claim 10, wherein the inner surface has a protruding portion and the cushioning pad is disposed on the protruding portion.

[Claim 12] 12. The optical disc drive of claim 10, wherein the inner surface has a leaf spring and the cushioning pad is disposed on the leaf spring.

[Claim 13] 13. The optical disc drive of claim 9, wherein the cushioning pad is fabricated from a shock-absorbing material.

- [Claim 14] 14. The optical disc drive of claim 13, wherein the buffer material comprises sponge or rubber.
- [Claim 15] 15. The optical disc drive of claim 9, wherein the cassette further comprises an engaging element disposed on the inner surface and each optical disc carrier has an engaging portion for latching with the engaging element.
- [Claim 16] 16. The optical disc drive of claim 15, wherein the latching element comprises a spring plate.
- [Claim 17] 17. The optical disc drive of claim 9, wherein the optical disc data processing module comprises an optical disc pick-up module.
- [Claim 18] 18. The optical disc drive of claim 17, wherein the optical disc data processing module further comprises an optical recording module.